



2021

Digital Generation, Our Generation



Central East India/Nepal

Celebrate Girls IDG 2021

Pokhara

11th October, 2021

The Children Protection Home, Hemja celebrated International Day of Girl Child (IDGC) by conducting in-house programs on the theme, 'Digital Generation, Our Generation' among children and in coordination with the anti-human trafficking project, Pokhara. A series of different programs were conducted like orientation on IDGC day, making art, taking awareness video as well as sharing it with the OVN networks. The children also shared their art with the AHT project and participated in jingle where one of the children also represented CP home in jingle making.

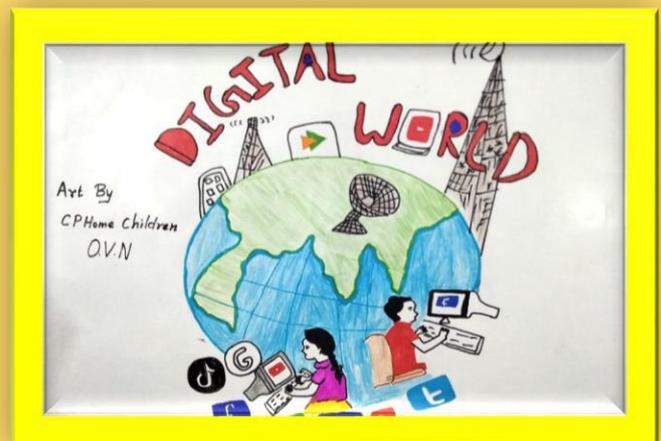
The in-house sessions were facilitated and coordinated by CPO and was supervised by CP Home in charge. A total of 17 children actively participated and gave their inputs in the planning and coordination of the events for the IDGC celebration.

Objective

- To reflect and share about the IDGC and its importance.
- To reflect on the usage of internet and the gender divide in digital platform.
- To substantiate our learning from the programs through art.

On 6th to 11th October the activities were carried out. Many of the sessions on IDGC were facilitated by the Child Protection officer for the children where we shared and discussed on how the celebration began in order to address the rights of girl child and address unique issues related to the girl child. The children participated actively and shared their challenges as they were also actively taking virtual classes and session during the pandemic. They also shared how boys seemed to be more comfortable with online tools in the virtual setting than the girls. The session also touched upon the gender divide on digital platform where although girls have comparatively less exposure than boys, but are more prone to cyber bullying, online child sexual exploitation as well as abuse. Therefore, safety measures while using internet were also highlighted in the session. Also the multiple benefits of using the digital world for girls to learn, connect, and grow was also emphasized. It was a fruitful session for the first event to go ahead with other celebrations.

It was an impactful program as it enhanced children's knowledge on girl child, imparted their responsibility to speak up for themselves as well as explored their creativity as they participated in the session, shared their learning in video and expressed it in the form of art. Likewise, it also made them aware about the opportunities and potential risks in the digital platform. Thus, they have to be aware while using the internet. And more specifically, as girl child they gathered their experiences how girls and boys are divided while accessing the internet as well besides all the unique experiences they share a girl child. The whole series of program was important to celebrate and yielded a positive impact on our girls, although the program would have been more effective if it had collaborated with other networking partners.



**Goa
11th October 2021**

International Day for Girl Child was observed on 11th October, 2021 in Goa. There were a total 55 participants: 44 girls, 3 boys, 5 volunteers and 3 staff.

Sr. Monica the program Coordinator of Good Shepherd Social Service center began the event with the opening prayer and introductory speech saying that the UN has declared this day, 11th October as IDG in 2012 to promote equality among the boys and girls, to provide opportunity for holistic development of the girl children. We need to create awareness to promote equal opportunity for girls and boys. They are the two wheels of the society. They need each other to lead the society in the right direction.

Mr. Peter F. Borges, the Chairperson of Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights was the Chief Guest. He emphasized on rights of the children such as Right to education, Right to survival, Right to identity, right to recreation, right to freedom of expression etc. He urged them not to be silent when their rights are violated and basic needs are not met but to raise their voices. He assured them that if they sent him any genuine written complaints regarding violation of their rights, he would take action. He promised them to visit their residential area to assess their living conditions. It was a participatory session. All the children actively took part in the session.

The children performed a cultural program based on Rights of the Girl Child. 15 children participated in the drawing competition on the theme. There was an active participation of children.



**Karjat
16th October 2021**

On 16th October 2021, the girls from 8 villages decked themselves to celebrate their day. They wanted to show to the world that they are happy to be girls and proud to be a girl. We had the celebration in the village as the Pandemic has not said good bye to Karjat.

The Village Animators were asked to explain to the families the specialty of the day and the worth of girl child in the family, in the society and in the world. The beauty of girl child in the planet adds beauty to the entire universe. The programme began with a prayer dance where girls put their steps together and raised their hands to thank our God, the creator to express their gratitude for creating the Girl in His own image and likeness.

Children were asked to draw an image of them or of any kind picture which projects the significance of the day. It was a great surprise that each one beautifully drew an image and displayed.

The programme continued with their cultural programmes where the villagers joined in the celebration and realized the worth of the Girl child in the family. The message reached to the heart of each person present that Girl child should be valued and respected, have equal attitude towards both boy and girl in the family and in the society. The head of the village was asked speak and the talk was around upholding girl children in the society. Let us not neglect our daughters but give them equal rights as boys.



Mumbai

19th October 2021

The International day of the Girl child was celebrated at 4pm in Good Shepherd Convent, Andheri west Mumbai on 19th October 2021. The theme of the programme was “**Digital Generation our Generation**”. The Chief Guest of the programme was Mrs. Sudha Singh, The Corporator of Andheri West and Mrs. Sundari Thakur, President of an NGO called “Women Respect Foundation”.

The program was enhanced with varied cultural event by children of different age groups and awareness was created through the skit.

The chief guest addressed the gathering by appreciating the celebration of the Girl Child Day by the Good Shepherd Sisters. She encouraged the girls to take advantage of the Digital media for their education and to aim higher for their future. Mrs. Sundari Thakur spoke on the good behavior of girls especially when they are outside of their homes. She cheered the girls to remember their culture and their traditions and empower themselves to face today’s challenges, like technology and digital world etc.

Balaghat

22nd October 2021

It was amazing to witness the children who were keen to celebrate the girl child. Celebration began with a fabulous dance with the message on girl child.

Mr. Sivu Prasad inspired the children with thought provoking message about the presence of girl children in the society and their progress. The positive impact on children’s development through online classes in the digital world. Children have learnt to access to the mobile and able to learn the new technology inspite of being in rural area.

Sr. Anto put across some questions, curiosities about the digital world to the Children and they were able to answer iher well about the social media, WhatsApp, Instagram, Face book, and Twitter. Sister explained the positive and negative impact social media. Each girl child is a shining star among today’s digital generation.



GIRLS with GIRLS for GIRLS

Garratola
23rd October 2021

International Girl Child Day was celebrated in Garratola site on 23rd October 2021. The programme was organized by the Good Shepherd Sisters under the Economic Justice Project, which was supported by MISEAN CARA and OAK FOUNDATION. The participants were around 350, which includes cooperative society members, girls and EJ staff. The celebration was focused to mark the international girl child day which was celebrated on the 11th October 2021 worldwide. The theme of the celebration was “Digital Generation. Our Generation.”

The celebration was marked by drawing competition in the villages and schools from 1st October to the 11th October 2021. Sr. Shanthi in her address focused on the gender quality in this digital generation and urged the girls to be aware of the talents that they hold and nurture it timely. Addressing the women Sister said, “encourage the girls to study well and give them the full moral support.” Ms. Priyanshi in her speech focused the development of the technology and how we can make use of it by using it appropriately.

The girls were honored with small gift for taking part in the drawing competition.



It is important that girls should be taught safe access to digital devices.

Education is the most important when discussing digital access



Bahari, Assam
24th October 2021

International Day of the Girl Child was commenced on 24th October 2021 organized by Good Shepherd Sisters and Lay Mission Partners at Bahari, Assam. The girl children from nearby convent and Don Bosco School Bahari participated in this program. The Theme for the program was “DIGITAL GENERATION, OUR GENERATION”. The Chief Guest was Mrs. Wahida Khanam (teacher and GS. Mission Partner). There were more than 70 children actively participated in this celebration.

Sr. Jyoti welcomed everyone for the IDG celebration. Miss Pushpa Ekka did anchoring of the program. Mrs. Wahida Khannam expressed in her message that she was very proud to be honored as a Chief Guest in this celebration, she encouraged children to be grateful to God for the precious gift of their life. She focused her talk on being good, never to give up doing well and achieve the goal because every girl has right and opportunity to grow in life as boy in the family.

Children joyfully participated in this celebration as they performed dances and speeches. The best performer in speech and dance were awarded with prizes.

Nagpur

11th November 2021

International day of the Girl Child was celebrated by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Nagpur on 11th November 2021 from 4 to 6 pm in Shiv Dham, Wox Cooler, Nagpur. There were 150 children both boys, girls and some parents for the programme. Prior to the celebration, the staff visited the area and motivated the children to come for the programme and there was a positive response from the parents and the children.

One of the youth was the master of the ceremony and the programme started with a welcome dance by the candidates which was well appreciated by everyone. Four girls from that area cheered the group by their beautiful dance. Three girls read a poem each about the importance of girls in the family and in the society. It was well articulated by the girls.

Candidates performed a skit directed by Sr. Deanna Pereira how the girl is denied of mobile for the online class and boy is given mobile for his studies. Our special chief guest Mrs. Sangeetha Gire the Municipal Corporator of Mankapur encouraged the children by her motivational talk. Sr. Pushpa Louis our Province leader explained about the importance of the day and made the children to sing an awareness song.

Mr. Peter our MDO manager interacted with the children by asking them about the digital devices they use and how they are responsibly using them for their studies.

Our chief guest distributed prizes for the girls who recited the poem. There was a games, winners were awarded with prizes.



Day of the Girl

Leaving no one behind we stand in solidarity with all girls who cannot be part of this conversation

Mulakalapalli

11th November 2021

Good Shepherd Convent at Mulakalapalli had organized International GIRL CHILD DAY on 11th November 2021. Mrs. Shantha Kumari, Advocate, Mr. Rammurthi from the Police department were the resource persons who inspired the young minds through their speeches about the “Importance of the International Day of the Girl Child and their rights”. They raised awareness on the various problems that are faced by girls, such as Education, internet [social media], gender discrimination and forced child marriages.... etc. They also highlighted as how to get away from those problems and seek the help from the parents, teachers and other welfare departments and also to be aware of the internet and its consequences. The girls were happy to know their rights and the right usage of the internet. Miss. Divya Meghana, a 10th Std. student gave a speech on, ‘*why & how the Girl Child Day came to be*’. Indeed, it was good and few girls along with her raised their voice saying, ‘*let’s be a change and let’s be a blessing.*’ The girls also did an awareness dance. It was a meaningful celebration for all of us.



Pallavaram

17th November 2021

The International Day of Girl Child and Children’s Day were celebrated together. The speciality of the day was that honouring the precious gift of Girls in the family, society and world. The boys came forward to put up a cultural program in order to show their admiration of their sisters and the vital role in the lives of girls at home, school and society. The boys shared their experiences of be growing up together with their sisters and those who do not have sisters how they miss their presence. It was a unique experience for us. Children participated in cultural events and shared their joy through a fellowship meal. Sr. Stella spoke to the children about the importance of each person’s role as male or female, also how we need to be vigilant in using the modern technology, and be educated and use it safely.



We need to recognise traditional and cultural practices that limit access to digital devices

Virar

18th November 2021

The program was organized at Bhiwandi-Good Shepherd Social Action Center. About 116 participants were able to be part of this celebration. The event began with the lighting of the lamb, the traditional way of invoking God's Presence.

The tableau was enacted on the theme 'Digital Generation' by the children from Virar.

Mrs. Nutan B. Khade enlightened the children with the theme digital generation, our generation. He said that we must take into account the diverse digital realities that girls face and the ways in which these can deepen the gender divide around connectivity, skills and online safety. Globally, 2.2 billion people below the age of 25 do not have internet access at home, with girls more likely to be cut off. Those who do get online, too often encounter cyber violence. In a recent survey of 14,000 girls in 31 countries, more than half (58 per cent) had been harassed and abused online.

These realities are compounded for girls with poor access to internet or non-availability of electricity and those living in conflict or crisis situations that compromise their right to education and access to enabling technology. We cannot afford for girls to be left out of the digital transformation.

On this International Day of the Girl, let us work together to ensure that girls are connected, supported and empowered so that we can co-lead the journey of digital transformation. She gave an opportunity to express themselves as how they cope with this situation. Some of the children expressed spontaneously which surprised the Chief guest.



Let's celebrate her